



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOLIDAY RECEPTION FOR FAMILIES OF CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

HARTFORD, Conn., - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces a holiday reception for the families of deployed and recently returned Soldiers and Airmen of the Connecticut National Guard at the State Armory, Hartford, Saturday, December 16, 2006, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The families and children will be able to visit four Christmas themed rooms that consist of a story room that will feature Mrs. Claus reading stories to the children, a candyland room, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" room and a Santa race car room.

The children will also watch movies, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," will be read and Santa will visit and hand out toys.

"The holiday reception is intended to honor the families for their sacrifices and recognize our servicemembers who deployed and recently returned and for those families who have a Soldier or Airman currently deployed in support of the Global War on Terror," said Martin. "I want to thank the contributions from businesses and citizens who made Operation E.L.F an overall success again this year."

(MORE)

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During the reception, families will be recognized for their sacrifices during military deployments and the Salvation Army musicians will perform, “Christmas in Brass.”

This year Operation E.L.F received more than 26,000 phone card minutes, \$5,000 in gift cards and \$11,000 for the Connecticut National Guard Foundation to help provide financial assistance to families, and thousands of dollars worth of toys.

The Connecticut National Guard currently has 970 Soldiers and Airmen deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Seventy Soldiers from the 143rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) of Waterbury, 120 Soldiers from the 1048th Transportation Company of Stratford, 30 Soldiers from Detachment 1, 134th Military Police Company of Norwich, 30 Soldiers from the 192nd Engineer Battalion of Stratford, 20 Soldiers from Detachment 3, 1109th Aviation Classification Repair Depot (AVCRAD) of Groton and nine Soldiers from Detachment 2, Company I, 185th Aviation Regiment of Groton, are deployed to Iraq. One hundred twenty Soldiers from the 643rd Military Police Company of Westbrook are deployed to Germany in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and 500 Soldiers from the 102nd Infantry Battalion of New Haven, are deployed to Afghanistan.

For more information about Operation E.L.F. call 1-800-858-2677, (860) 524-4922, 4924 or visit www.operationelf.com.

This event is open to the media.

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